

## CLAIMS

1. An austenitic stainless steel less crack-sensitive during forming,  
which has the composition consisting of C up to 0.04 mass %, 0.1-1.0  
5 mass % Si, Mn up to 5.0 mass %, S up to 0.0060 mass %, Al up to 0.003  
mass %, 5-9 mass % Ni, 15-20 mass % Cr, N up to 0.035 mass %, 1.0-5.0  
mass % Cu and the balance being Fe except inevitable impurities, and has  
nonmetallic  $\text{MnO} \cdot \text{SiO}_2 \cdot \text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  inclusions, which contains not less than 15  
mass % of  $\text{SiO}_2$  and not more than 40 mass % of  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ , dispersed in its  
10 matrix.
2. A method of manufacturing austenitic stainless steel, which  
comprises the steps of:  
    preparing a molten steel having the composition consisting of C up to  
0.04 mass %, 0.1-1.0 mass % Si, Mn up to 5.0 mass %, S up to 0.0060  
15 mass %, Al up to 0.003 mass %, 5-9 mass % Ni, 15-20 mass % Cr, N up to  
0.035 mass %, 1.0-5.0 mass % Cu and the balance being Fe except  
inevitable impurities;  
    covering said molten steel with basic slag in a vacuum or  
non-oxidizing atmosphere; and  
20 strongly deoxidizing said molten steel by addition of a Si alloy whose  
Al content is controlled less than 1.0 mass %.